

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5885

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FOR: CU/EA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL: OBSERVANCE IN AUSTRALIA

1. WE HAVE BEEN RELIABLY INFORMED THAT ON JULY 4 PRIME MINISTER WILL ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR GOA'S PARTICIPATION IN U.S. BICENTENNIAL. A MORE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE ISSUED IN DETAIL SAME DATE BY SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE.

2. AMONG OTHER PROJECTS, IT EXPECTED THAT MENTION WILL BE MADE OF ESTABLISHMENT BY GOA OF AUSTRALIAN STUDIES PROGRAM(S) AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES; ESTABLISHMENT OF A PROGRAM OF NON-ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS GOING IN BOTH DIRECTIONS MODELED IN PART AFTER EISENHOWER EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIPS. POSSIBLY ALSO ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN PERFORMING ARTS GROUP(S) TO U.S. DURING 1976.

3. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT NATIONAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NCDC) WILL ANNOUNCE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION FOR DESIGN OF A FITTING MEMORIAL IN CANBERRA TO WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN, THE AMERICAN PLANNER WHO DESIGNED CITY OF CANBERRA, THE NATION'S CAPITAL, IN 1912. MEMORIAL, TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON MOUNT AINSLEY IN CANBERRA WILL BE A "FIGURATIVE OR NON FIGURATIVE WORK, POSSIBLY COMBINING ELEMENTS OF TERRACES, STEPS, AND A SCULPTURAL FEATURE", ALTHOUGH IDEAS "OF ALL KINDS ARE WELCOME.". 1976 IS BOTH OUR BICENTENNIAL AND CENTENNIAL OF BIRTH IN U.S. OF BURLEY GRIFFIN OF CHICAGO.

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PLAN IS FOR COMPETITION DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED JULY 4, 1975.

WILL BE WIDELY PUBLICIZED IN U.S. ASSESSMENT OF COMPETITION ENTRIES WILL BE IN TWO STATES, ONE ENDING PERIOD 20 OCTOBER TO 7 NOVEMBER, WITH FIVE TOP ENTRIES BEING CHOSEN. SECOND STAGE OF ASSESSMENT WILL BE 13-20 FEBRUARY 1976, WITH TOP PRIZE OF A\$2500, OTHER PRIZES SOMEWHAT SMALLER. ENTRANTS WILL BE ASKED TO WORK WITHIN MEMORIAL CONSTRUCTION FIGURE OF A\$100,000.

4. FOUR ASSESSORS WILL JUDGE ENTRIES IN THESE TWO STAGES, AND IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR ALL OF THEM TO BE IN CANBERRA FOR AT LEAST 2-3 DAYS DURING EACH STAGE. TWO OF THE ASSESSORS WILL BE PRACTITIONERS IN VISUAL ARTS (E.G. ARCHITECT, SCULPTOR,

DESIGNER, ETC.), ONE WILL BE OFFICIAL OF NCDC, AND ONE WILL BE

EXPERT ON WORK AND CAPITOL PLAN OF BURLEY GRIFFIN.

5. GOA HOPES AT LEAST ONE OF FOUR WILL BE AN AMERICAN. THEY PARTICULARLY LIKE TO HAVE DR. LAWRENCE HALPRIN, AMERICAN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT AND DESIGNER, WHOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS LISTED WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA. HIS OFFICE, (LAWRENCE HALPRIN AND ASSOCIATES) LOCATED 1620 MONTGOMERY STREET, SAN FRANCISCO. LOCAL SPONSORS WILL PAY HIS TRAVEL TO AND FROM AUSTRALIA, EXPENSES WHILE HERE AND FEE TO BE NEGOTIATED. WOULD INVOLVE TWO BRIEF TRIPS HERE AS MENTIONED PREVIOUS PARA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: POST'S INTEREST AND ENDORSEMENT THIS PROJECT IS PART OUR OVERALL INVOLVEMENT NUMEROUS BINATIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATING TO BICENTENNIAL. WE DO NOT SEE PROJECT AS PURELY COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION BUT ONE ALSO HAVING LASTING GOODWILL ASPECTS AS MARK U.S. BICENTENNIAL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPT. COULD CONTACT HALPRIN TO DETERMINE IF HE IS (1) EVEN TENTATIVELY INTERESTED; AND (2) BELIEVES HE MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR REQUIRED VISITS AUSTRALIA. UPON RECEIPT THIS INFO, NCDC WILL CONTACT HIM BY PHONE TO DISCUSS DETAILS.
GREEN

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